

NEBRASKA

WEATHER & CROPS



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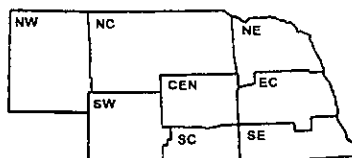
For Week Ending May 3, 1998

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National Agricultural Statistics Service
U S Department of Agriculture
and U S Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
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WEATHER

Temperatures across the State averaged two to five degrees below normals for the week. Precipitation across the State averaged from a trace in the Northwest to over three-fourths of an inch in the Southeast

GENERAL

Fieldwork activities were in full swing last week, except where slowed by rainfall, with corn producers making excellent planting progress, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Moisture supplies were beginning to become a concern in northwest counties and a continuing concern in southwest counties with wheat fields and pastures needing rain to promote growth. Other producer activities consisted of finalizing oats seeding, spring tillage, fertilizer application, equipment preparation, grain marketing, and livestock care.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition declined from last week and rated 1% very poor, 8% poor, 30% fair, 51% good, and 10% excellent. By Sunday, 29% of the crop had jointed ahead of 15% last year but behind the five-year average of 31%. Reports of army cutworms continued to be noted in the Panhandle and southwest wheat fields.

CROPS (Cont.)

Chemical weed control was active. Southwestern and northwestern fields are in need of additional moisture.

Corn planting progressed to 43% complete as of Sunday. This was ahead of both 27% last year and 26% for the five-year average. In areas of very short moisture supplies, some producers were irrigating to assist seed germination.

Oats seeding was virtually complete as of Sunday, ahead of 85% last year and 84% average. To date, 47% of the crop had emerged, ahead of last year's 41%.

Alfalfa condition rated 2% poor, 20% fair, 64% good, and 14% excellent. Producers were seeing army cutworm damage in alfalfa fields in many portions of the State with some producers applying chemical control.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition improved overall and rated 6% poor, 24% fair, 59% good, and 11% excellent. Calving activities were 95% complete. In addition to moisture in the northwest and southwest, warmer weather is needed to promote grass growth in all areas of the State. Some cattle are being moved to pastures, while others are held in dry lots until improved grass growth is achieved.

CROP PROGRESS AS OF MAY 3, 1998	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
	PERCENT											
% Wheat Jointed	9	10	19	20	24	38	39	77	29	14	15	31
% Corn Planted	42	17	24	46	43	37	60	60	43	12	27	26
% Oats Sown	91	98	99	94	99	100	98	99	98	79	85	84
% Oats Emerged	62	53	28	32	53	93	55	78	47	25	41	n/a
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF MAY 1, 1998												
Days Suitable	7 0	6 0	5 2	5 5	4 6	6 5	4 8	2 9	5 2	6 1	3 5	
Topsoil Moisture - Very Short	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	2	1	0	
- Short	31	19	4	11	3	45	6	0	13	11	8	
- Adequate	69	80	83	86	94	28	91	86	80	82	72	
- Surplus	0	1	13	3	3	0	3	14	5	6	20	
Subsoil Moisture - Very Short	0	1	0	0	0	15	0	0	1	1	0	
- Short	11	13	5	4	2	43	5	0	9	8	9	
- Adequate	88	86	83	93	94	42	95	89	86	85	82	
- Surplus	1	0	12	3	4	0	0	11	4	6	9	

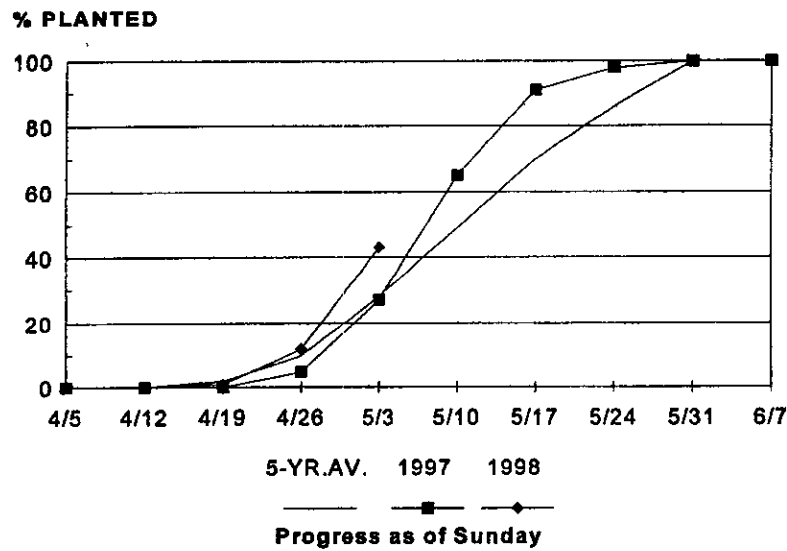
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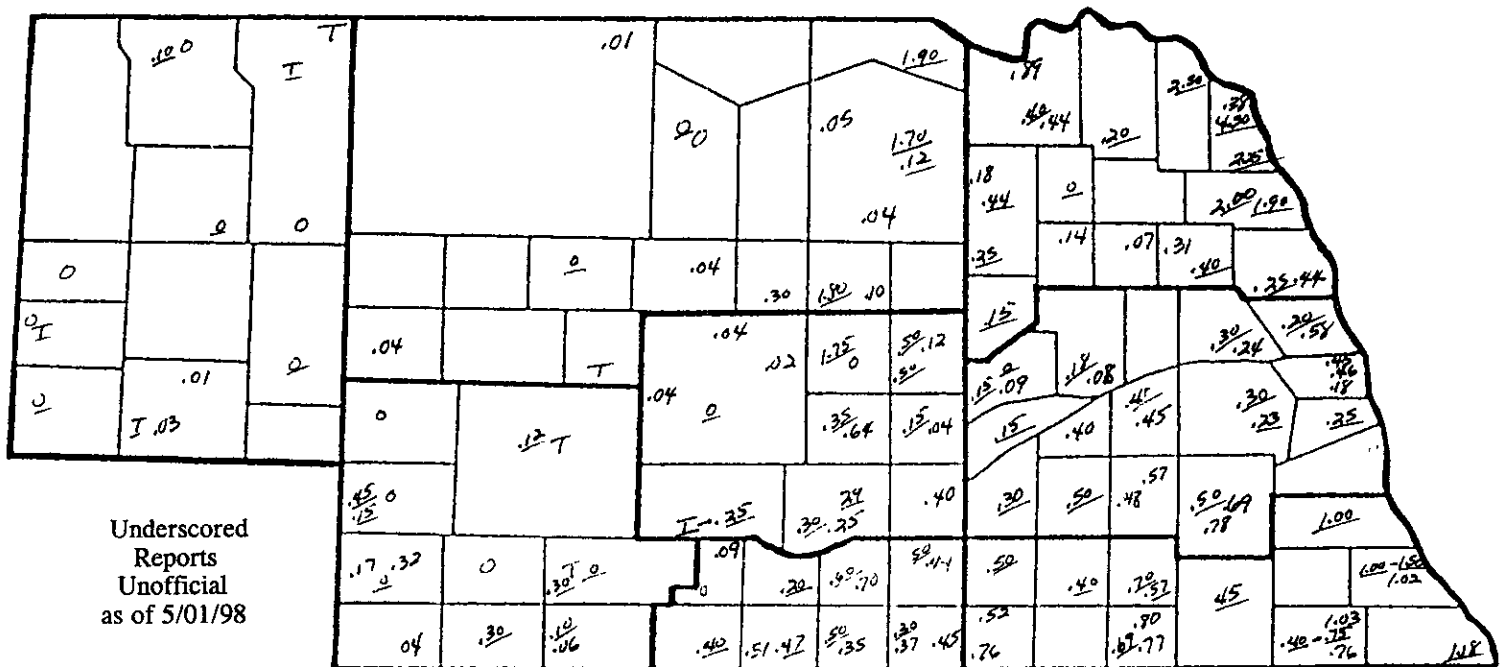
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CORN PLANTED



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1998



PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - MAY 2, 1998

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.01	.06	.36	.17	.42	.07	.36	.81
Total since April 1	.78	1.93	4.46	2.97	3.93	.62	2.73	2.49
Normal since April 1	1.97	2.34	2.70	2.63	2.96	2.07	2.31	3.03
Total as % of normal	40%	82%	165%	113%	133%	30%	118%	82%

TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1998

Station	Temperature				Precipitation
	Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches
	Max	Min			
NW Chadron	80	25	49	---	0
Scottsbluff	78	23	48	-3	0
Sidney	75	20	46	---	.03
NC Valentine	75	25	48	-4	.01
NE Norfolk	75	38	52	-3	.14
Sioux City	79	41	54	-2	.38
CEN Grand Island	78	36	52	-4	.40
Ord	72	33	51	---	0
EC Lincoln	70	40	52	-5	.69
Omaha	79	43	53	-3	.46
SW Imperial	78	28	50	---	.32
North Platte	74	23	49	-4	T